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CARLSBAD FIELD OFFICE

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
FEMA Region IX
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, CA. 94607-4052



FEMA

June 23, 2010

Lanika L. Cervantes, Project Manager
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District
Regulatory Division
Attn: 2010-00142-LLC
6010 Hidden Valley Road, Suite 105
Carlsbad, California 92011

Dear Ms. Cervantes:

This is in response to your request for comments on Public Notice No. SPL 2010-00142-LLC regarding Receipt of Application for a Corps Permit, Notice of Intent to Prepare a Draft EIS/EIR and Hold a Public Scoping Meeting.

Please review the current effective countywide Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for the County of Imperial (Community Number 060065), Maps revised September 26, 2008; and County of Riverside (Community Number 060245), Maps revised August 28, 2008. Please note that the Counties of Imperial and Riverside, California are participants in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The minimum, basic NFIP floodplain management building requirements are described in Vol. 44 Code of Federal Regulations (44 CFR), Sections 59 through 65.

A summary of these NFIP floodplain management building requirements are as follows:

- All buildings constructed within a riverine floodplain, (i.e., Flood Zones A, AO, AH, AE, and A1 through A30 as delineated on the FIRM), must be elevated so that the lowest floor is at or above the Base Flood Elevation level in accordance with the effective Flood Insurance Rate Map.
- If the area of construction is located within a Regulatory Floodway as delineated on the FIRM, any *development* must not increase base flood elevation levels. **The term *development* means any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to buildings, other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations, and storage of equipment or materials.** A hydrologic and hydraulic analysis must be performed *prior* to the start of development, and must demonstrate that the development would not cause any rise in base flood levels. No rise is permitted within regulatory floodways.

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- Upon completion of any development that changes existing Special Flood Hazard Areas, the NFIP directs all participating communities to submit the appropriate hydrologic and hydraulic data to FEMA for a FIRM revision. In accordance with 44 CFR, Section 65.3, as soon as practicable, but not later than six months after such data becomes available, a community shall notify FEMA of the changes by submitting technical data for a flood map revision. To obtain copies of FEMA's Flood Map Revision Application Packages, please refer to the FEMA website at <http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/forms.shtm>.

Please Note:

Many NFIP participating communities have adopted floodplain management building requirements which are more restrictive than the minimum federal standards described in 44 CFR. Please contact the local community's floodplain manager for more information on local floodplain management building requirements. The Imperial County floodplain manager can be reached by calling Brian Donley, Building Official, at (760) 482-4236. The Riverside County floodplain manager can be reached by calling Michael Lara, Director, Building and Safety Department, at (805) 781-5271.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call Robert Durrin (Imperial County) at (510) 627-7057 and/or Frank Mansell (Riverside County) at (510) 627-7191 of the Mitigation staff.

Sincerely,



Gregor Blackburn, CFM, Branch Chief
Floodplain Management and Insurance Branch

cc:

Brian Donley, Building Official, Imperial County

Michael Lara, Director, Building & Safety Division, Riverside County

Garret Tam Sing/Salomon Miranda, State of California, Department of Water Resources,
Southern Region Office

Robert Durrin, Floodplanner, CFM, DHS/FEMA Region IX

Frank Mansell, Floodplanner, DHS/FEMA Region IX

Alessandro Amaglio, Environmental Officer, DHS/FEMA Region IX